Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3 (Cancelled).

4 (Previously Presented). A chimeric sIL-6R/IL-6 according to claim 38, wherein said linker is a tripeptide of the sequence Glu-Phe-Met, said chimeric polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

5-6 (Cancelled)

7 (Previously Presented). A chimeric sIL-6R/IL-6 according to claim 38, being the sIL-6RδVal/L/IL-6 of SEQ ID NO:7 in which a 13 amino acid peptide linker of SEQ ID NO:1 is substituted for the Glu-Phe-Met of residues 357-359 of SEQ ID NO:7.

8 (Cancelled)

9 (Previously Presented). A chimeric sIL-6R/IL-6 according to claim 38, wherein said sIL-6R/IL-6 is produced in mammalian cells.

10 (Previously Presented). A chimeric sIL-6R/IL-6 protein according to claim 9, wherein said sIL-6R/IL-6 is produced in human cells.

11 (Previously Presented). A chimeric sIL-6R/IL-6 according to claim 9, wherein said sIL-6R/IL-6 is produced in CHO cells.

12-32 (Cancelled)

33 (Previously Presented). A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a chimeric sIL-6R/IL-6 according to claim 38, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

34-37 (Cancelled)

38 (Currently Amended). A chimeric glycosylated soluble interleukin-6 receptor (sIL-6R)-interleukin-6 (IL-6) polypeptide (sIL-6R/IL-6), consisting of:

an amino acid sequence which is a fusion product of sIL-6RδVal fused to IL-6, including a non-immunogenic linker ~~of 3-4 amino acids~~ therebetween that is a tripeptide of the sequence Glu-Phe-Met (said chimeric peptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7) or ~~including~~ that includes a peptide of 13 amino acid residues of sequence Glu-Phe-Gly-Ala-Gly-Leu-Val-Leu-Gly-Gly-Gln-Phe-Met (SEQ ID NO: 1) therebetween, which linker does not prevent the chimeric polypeptide from triggering dimerization of gp130 in human cells.

39-44 (Cancelled)